



MEDICAL
OFFICER'S
ANNUAL
REPORT.



*FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 1925.*

John Cordia, Premier Press, Felixstowe.



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ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health to
the Urban District of Felixstowe and
Walton for the year 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1925.

The Urban district of Felixstowe consists of a tract of land of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, bounded on the S.E. by the Sea, on the N.E. by the Estuary of the Deben, on the S.W. by the Estuary of the Orwell and on the N.W. by a line commencing from the Orwell about three miles from Landguard point and running with a slightly irregular course to a point about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the mouth of the Deben. A considerable area of marsh land adjoins both rivers but the residential portions have, for the most part, an elevation of about 65 feet above sea level.

The subsoil is red crag of the Pliocene formation, overlying the London clay, which here and there comes to the surface but only to a slight extent in a few scattered places, so that the surface dries readily after rain under normal conditions, which are now disturbed owing to extensive building operations.

The Climate is dry and bracing, and the amount of bright sunshine has usually been considerably in excess of the average recorded for the Eastern Counties. Felixstowe is unfortunately naturally deficient in trees and the present building activity is destroying those which hitherto have given the small touch of arboreal beauty to which we might have laid claim. Planting in private gardens has somewhat remedied this defect, but not to any great extent. Considering the importance of trees, not only for their beauty but for their value in purifying the air, giving shade and shelter and conserving necessary moisture, I



would urge extensive planting wherever this can be carried out, and especially in situations where the proximity of telegraph wires will not necessitate undue topping.

The census population for 1921 was 11655 and is now estimated at 12065. The number of inhabited houses for 1921 was 2151 and for 1925, 2413. Of these 866 are of the working class type and 1547 of other types. 74 houses have been completed during the year. The great bulk of these, all in fact except a few outlying cottages, are connected with the town water supply and with the main drainage system. 113 have pail closets, 40 have cesspools and 8 have privies.

The following tabulated list gives a summary of the sanitary work carried out during the year.

Sewers laid	....	....	850 yards
Surface Water drains laid	....	....	2109 yards
Sewer connections	....	....	57
Nuisances abated	....	....	10
Premises disinfected	....	....	26
Steam disinfector used	....	....	31 times
Cesspools emptied	....	....	436 times
Privies emptied	....	....	26 times
Pail closets emptied	....	....	7791 times
Houses completed	....	....	74
(of which the plans were inspected and passed and the houses inspected before and after completion)			
Inspections of miscellaneous premises	....	....	74
Informal notices served, resulting in abatement	....	....	10
Special meat inspections	....	....	2

The steam disinfector of the Washington Lyons pattern is available for disinfection of bedding, clothing etc., both after notifiable diseases have occurred and also for special disinfections by the request of residents or visitors, a charge of 5/- per load being made under the latter circumstances.

The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected and found satisfactory. Certified milk has been supplied by two vendors, one of whom obtains it from the Stetchworth dairies at Cambridge and the other from a farm at Fornham All Saints, near Bury St. Edmunds.

The bacterial counts from the milk in both cases have been most satisfactory.

Pasteurized milk is also prepared and sold by another vendor.

There are eight private slaughter houses all of which are regularly inspected, and conform with the regulations laid down by the Ministry of Health, but as stated by me in many previous reports, their situation is for the most part undesirable and the pens are too close to the place where the animals are actually slaughtered. It is undoubtedly desirable that a well arranged public abattoir should be erected.

The Bakehouses have been regularly inspected and are quite sanitary and satisfactory.

The Water Supply of Felixstowe is obtained from a deep well in Rushmere, in the chalk strata, about eight miles from the town. The well is amply protected from surface contamination and every analysis has been found most satisfactory. It is of perfect organic purity but is somewhat hard for drinking and toilet purposes, containing a considerable quantity of bicarbonate of lime and a little bicarbonate of iron. Upon aeration the bicarbonate of iron is oxidized into hydrated oxide of iron which is deposited in the pipes and occasionally gives rise to a reddish turbidity when the pipes are freely flushed.

The appended copy of a recent analysis speaks for itself.

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

No. 39463.

By W. Lincolne Sutton, F.I.C., County Analyst.

Sample received from Dr. G. J. Conford, M.O.H., Felixstowe,
per H. Clegg, Esq.

Mark or Seal: Sample of water taken from a service pipe
connected with the water main pipe in St.
Andrew's Road, Felixstowe, at 9-30 a.m.,
17th February 1926.

Physical Characteristics: Bright and clear.

Results of Analysis:—

		Grains per Gallon
Saline Ammonia	....	nil
Albumenoid Ammonia	....	trace
Combined Chlorine	....	3.85
Nitrogen as Nitrates	....	.14
Nitrites	....	nil
Total Solid Matter	....	31.0

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	.011
Poisonous Metals	absent
Hardness before Boiling (total)	13.8°
Hardness after Boiling (permanent)	4.4°

Opinion. This water is of exceptional organic purity and free from all trace of pollution by sewage or surface matter. I am of opinion that the water is of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

There is no natural fall for the sewage of the district and accordingly it has to be dealt with mechanically. Shone's Hydropneumatic system was installed upwards of thirty years ago. The system is grouped in three areas, the Walton area, the Bath Hill area and the Beach Station area. In the Walton area the sewage gravitates into an automatic compressed air ejector about a mile and a quarter on the Ipswich side of the town station. From this it is forced into a rising main as far as the railway bridge and then flows by gravity to the top of Peewit Hill, where it accumulates under pressure and passes into the main outfall pipe which empties into the Estuary of the Orwell.

In the centre of the town the sewage gravitates into the Bath Hill ejector and is thence pumped through a rising main which ultimately empties into the ejector in Beach Station Road, whence it is again pumped together with the sewage from the West end of the town into a rising main which joins the main outfall pipe into the Orwell Estuary. It is obvious that this system is expensive and makes great demands upon the engine power for compressing the air which works the ejectors. It is therefore proposed to discontinue the use of the Bath Hill Ejector and carry the sewage from the central area of the town to a distance of 750 yards out to sea at a depth of 24 feet at high water.

Some trouble has been experienced in the past, during heavy storms, through the flooding of yards and basements in the low lying West end of the town, but this difficulty has been overcome by arranging a safety overflow which carries the storm waters from the sewer out into the sea whenever the contents of the sewers rise above a given depth. It is impossible to prevent storm waters from entering the sewers notwithstanding a very complete system of surface water drainage but with the

installation of the system mentioned above, the pumping power at the Outfall works will be so much relieved that the storm water overflow outlet is unlikely to come into operation.

To cope with the increasing amount of refuse consequent upon the growth of the town, an extra destructor unit with a Cornish boiler, has been installed, which will provide increased steam power with economy of fuel.

MATERNITY CENTRE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held in the Salvation Army Hall in Walton under the charge of a Lady Medical Officer appointed by the County Council. The Meetings are on Thursdays from 3 to 4-30 p.m. and are presided over by the Medical Officer and the two District Nurses.

Lectures are given on pre-natal hygiene, the feeding and clothing of infants and children, care of the teeth, prevention of disease, remedy of congenital defects and general hygiene.

No charge is made and no treatment is given, nor is any material assistance given in the homes of those who attend, but cod-liver oil and certain other special foods are supplied at cost price.

Both the District Nurses hold the certificate of the C.M.B. and there is one other Midwife practising in the district. All of these are under the inspection of the Inspector appointed by the County Council. The average attendance at the Maternity Centre is about 30.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The County Public Health Authority makes provision for the domiciliary and sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis, and cases are periodically visited and examined either alone or in consultation with the practitioner in charge, by Dr. Wood White the County M.O.H. Registers are kept both by the Local and County Authorities.

SMALL POX.

No case has ever arisen in the district during the last twenty years but should a case occur it would be removed by the County Authority to a hospital situated on Foxhall Heath near Ipswich.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There is a hospital for infectious cases in Carr Road to which patients may be removed for treatment and isolation. There are 24 beds available, partly in a converted dwelling house and partly in an annex constructed by the R.E. during the war and subsequently purchased from the Government by the Council. Both residents and visitors are admitted, a charge being made or not according to the circumstances of the case. An Ambulance is kept by the Council who pay a jobmaster 7/6 for each case removed. The ambulance is disinfected at the Council's yard in Garrison Lane.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital was opened in 1908 for the accommodation of some cases of diphtheria which had occurred in necessitous families, and has since been in use for notifiable infectious diseases, though non-notifiable cases are occasionally taken when accommodation is available.

During 1925, 19 patients were treated in the hospital, the details of which are given in the accompanying table. All the patients were discharged cured and there were no deaths.

Where there is such a small number it is obviously unfair to draw any inferences from the average cost per patient per day, which with a total expenditure of £472 1 2, and an average of £22 12 2 per patient, works out at over £2 0 0. If however we consider that establishment charges are going on all the time whether patients are under treatment or not, the total does not appear excessive for an insurance against epidemics in a seaside resort of 12000 permanent inhabitants.

In the last financial year for which figures are available, i.e. April 1st, 1924 to March 31st, 1925 there were 14 patients under treatment with an average stay in hospital of 14 days. The exact total of hospital days was 201 for patients and 1095 for staff, making a total of 1296. The total cost of food items for the same period was £98 18 8. From these figures we calculate the cost of food per person per day as a fraction over eighteenpence.

The details of the expenditure for the hospital are given in the accompanying table supplied by the Accountant.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL, Year ended 31st March, 1925.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Medical Supt's. Remuneration for Visits	24	10	0
Rent	21	0	0
Removal of Cases by Ambulance			
Grocer	29	15	4
Butcher	20	5	11
Water	4	7	8
Dairyman	10	5	10
Medical Requisites	21	6	4
Baker	6	8	8
Fishmonger	6	10	8
Greengrocer	25	12	3
Lighting and Rental of Gas Cooker	26	4	7
Furnishings, Utensils, Repairs, etc.	27	19	0
Wages of Workmen	15	10	7
Carting by Contract		16	6
Coke		10	3
Nurses' Salary, Uniform & Laundry Allowances	121	4	8
Domestic Help			
Telephone	10	8	2
Laundry	63	15	7
Sweeping Chimneys			
Proportion of Stores	13	19	8
" Depot	1	1	0
" Stables	1	0	9
Painting etc. Work	19	7	9
	<u>£472</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

INCOME.

By Private Cases	£42	10	6
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The County pathologist undertakes the examination of throat swabbings, sputum and other pathological specimens for purposes of diagnosis, and visits patients for the purpose of assisting diagnosis or personally collecting material when requested by the local M.O.H. or the practitioner in charge of the patient.

Venereal diseases are treated free of charge by the Medical Officer in charge of the centre at Ipswich, Wassermann reactions being undertaken by the County pathologist at the

County Laboratory. Arrangements are made through the medical attendant of the patient, to whom forms are supplied for filling in the necessary data.

POOR LAW ADMINISTRATION.

This is in the hands of the Guardians of the Woodbridge Rural District who deal with cases as they occur through their relieving officer. I understand from him that the amount of outdoor relief is only about half of that which was required five years ago, and that the average of regular recipients is about 8 weekly as compared with 17 at the earlier period. The total number of individual cases dealt with including removals to the Infirmary and the Mental Hospital during the year does not exceed thirty for the whole district.

The Felixstowe Cottage Hospital receives cases of Surgical Tuberculosis at a definite charge paid by the Government. There are no other State aided hospitals in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In estimating the population I have decided to consider the average number of occupants per inhabited house as 5. This is a conservative estimate as the average found during the 1921 census was 5.5, but it will bring my figures nearer to those supplied by the Registrar General, in which a very generous allowance is made for temporary residents. The number of inhabited houses is 2413 so that the population may be reckoned as 12065.

BIRTH RATE.

161 births have been registered, 80 males and 81 females, the rate working out at 13.3 per thousand.

The estimated population for calculating the birth rate, supplied by the Registrar General, is 10230 and the net number of births belonging to the district is given as 159, so that the birth rate according to these figures is 15.5 per thousand. The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales is 18.3 per thousand.

DEATH RATE.

105 deaths were registered in the district, 10 of which are assignable elsewhere. 9 have to be added from deaths of residents who died outside the district, so that the net total belonging to this area is 104, giving a rate of 8.6 per thousand.

evidenced by the births and deaths in each area and of migration as indicated from other sources of information such as the changes in the numbers on the Electoral Register and the migration returns obtained by the Board of Trade, and are supplied only for use in Vital Statistics.

3. The classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special inquiries. The principal subjects of these enquiries are indicated in a table published in the annual reports of the Registrar General; and this possible source of discrepancy between the returns of the Registrar General and those compiled locally should be borne in mind particularly in regard to the causes of death dealt with in that table.

MORTALITY TABLE FOR 1925.

DISEASE	AGE PERIOD.						Total
	0-1	1-10	10-20	20-40	40-60	60 & over	
Epidemic Diseases (Whooping cough only)	3						3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			3	6	2	1	12
Other Tubercular Diseases		1					1
Pneumonia and Pleurisy (1 case only)	1	5				1	7
Bronchitis					1	3	4
Cancer					2	8	10
Nephritis						3	3
Abdominal Visceral Disease			1		1	3	5
Heart Disease			1		3	20	24
Septic Diseases			1		1		2
Cerebral Disease					2	10	12
Other Diseases	3			1	1	5	10
Parturition				1			1
Prematurity	4						4
Convulsions	1						1
Accidents				1	3		4
Suicides						1	1
Totals	12	6	6	9	16	55	104

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

DISEASE	AGE PERIOD					Total
	under 1 day	1-7 days	1-4 weeks	1-3 months	3-12 months	
Whooping cough				1	2	3
Broncho Pneumonia					1	1
Malformations	1		1			2
Asthenia				1		1
Prematurity	3	1				4
Convulsions			1			1
Totals	4	1	2	2	3	12

Total Births registered	...	164	
Mortality per 1000 births registered		74	
Births :	Males	Females	Total
	80	81	161

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE	AGE PERIOD				Total
	0-10	10-20	20-40	over 60	
Scarlet fever			1		1
Diphtheria		1			1
Enteric fever & Paratyphoid	1	1	1		3
Encephalitis Lethargica		1	2	1	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	1	6	2	13
Other Tubercular diseases	1	1	1		3
Totals	6	5	11	3	25

CASES IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

DISEASE.	AGE PERIOD.			Totals
	1-10	10-20	20-40	
Scarlet fever		1	1	2
Measles	3	1		4
Typhoid	1		1	2
Mumps			1	1
Whooping Cough	1			1
Erysipelas			2	2
Influenza		1	1	2
Tonsillitis			1	1
Laryngitis	1			1
Encephalitis ^{LETHARGICA} Schönbergia		1		1
Carbuncles			1	1
For observation			1	1
Totals	6	4	9	19

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT, 1925.

Causes of Death. CIVILIANS ONLY.	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	50	55
Whooping cough	1	2
Encephalitis lethargica ...	1	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	8
Other tuberculous diseases ...	1	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	4	6
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	4	5
Heart disease	8	11
Arterio-sclerosis	4	
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	3
Other respiratory diseases		1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	
Cirrhosis of liver	1	
Acute and chronic nephritis ...	2	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	5	2
Suicide		1
Other deaths from violence ...	3	
Other defined diseases ...	6	12
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		
Total	6	6
Illegitimate		
TOTAL BIRTHS	73	86
Legitimate	71	86
Illegitimate	2	
POPULATION		
For Birth Rate	10230	
For Death Rate	9720	

General Register Office,
Somerset House,
London, W.C.2,
April, 1926.

G. J. Conford M.D. Conon
Moss

